

## COVID-19

**April 10, 2020**

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#### STATUS UPDATE #7

Team Southeast,

We are now winding down the first month of our response to the Coronavirus. If you are keeping tabs on the news, you know that the next two weeks are expected to be critical in determining the overall impact of the disease. Keep pushing forward, do not let your guard down. Personal accountability is the key to ultimately winning our war against the virus. If everyone takes the right actions, follows CDC guidelines and maintains awareness, we will prevail.

This includes new guidance from the DOD and the CDC that we all need to follow. On Sunday, the Secretary of Defense sent a memorandum requiring the use of a [face covering onboard installations](#) when it is not feasible to maintain a proper social distance. This information should be well-disseminated by now, but if you question whether you should or should not wear a cloth covering, err on the side of caution and wear it. If you don't know how to make a cloth face covering, [the CDC has guidance on making one](#). The Navy Exchange and Commissary require the wearing of a face covering to access their facilities. The Navy is working on acquiring facemasks and other personal protective equipment for our personnel onboard our installations, but until then, everyone is authorized to wear a homemade face covering or a purchased one as long as it meets CDC guidelines.

As much as we emphasize social distancing and avoiding person-to-person contact, there is a real concern about contamination through contact with items or surfaces that have been touched by a person with the virus. Studies have shown that the virus can [survive for several hours and even days](#) on different surfaces. The CDC has [information on how to properly clean and disinfect your home](#) and office, including a [list of recommended disinfectants](#) that effectively destroy the virus and help prevent the spread of disease.

In my last update, I emphasized that cybersecurity is a vital concern – even more so now with so many people working remotely. As a member of the DOD, you can now take advantage of a free 1-year subscription to McAfee Internet Security for your home PC or MAC at no cost to you. This subscription gives you proactive security for your home

computer. By installing McAfee software on your home system, you'll not only be protecting your home system, but also helping our organization strengthen its IT security against transferable viruses and spyware.

Simply go to [www.mcafee.com/windows/dod](http://www.mcafee.com/windows/dod) for a PC or [www.mcafee.com/mac/dod](http://www.mcafee.com/mac/dod) for a Mac and enter the appropriate "Company Code" in the appropriate field (DIS41FBC06 for PC and DIS75F9D61 for Mac). Enter your DOD email address and click "Get Mail" and you will receive an email from McAfee Subscriptions with your unique license key and download link. Do not try to load the software on your government issued equipment.

In addition to cyber-security, be aware of your own personal and financial security. Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding the Coronavirus. The [Federal Trade Commission](#) has the lead on tracking scams and has helpful tips on how to avoid them. Beware of unnamed or unapproved products claiming to treat or prevent the Coronavirus. Don't respond to texts, emails or calls about stimulus checks from the government. [Follow these steps](#) to make sure you get your check and not the scammers. If you suspect a scam, it may very well be. Call your bank to verify an email or a text message. If it is a scam, [alert the FTC](#) so they can prevent others from becoming a victim.

While much of what we see in the news can be disheartening, it is important that you know that there are good things happening as well.

[Navy Reservists have answered the call to help in COVID-19 relief efforts.](#) About 500 Reserve medical professionals are reporting to New York City to augment the medical capabilities there.

[The Navy Exchange Service Command donated N-95 masks](#) to the NAS Pensacola Fire Department over the weekend. An employee discovered a stockpile of 240 masks in storage, and rather than keep them, selflessly provided them to a command on the installation with a vital need.

An [Expeditionary Medical Facility team deployed](#) to New Orleans and Dallas to assist local medical personnel with the COVID-19 response there. The first 50 people from [Naval Hospital Jacksonville](#) arrived last week with an additional 60 people arriving over the weekend.

The [Navy Lodges are providing rooms](#) to help Sailors and family members who are placed on restriction of movement status. Twenty-three Navy Lodges worldwide have 200 rooms being used by Navy commands to house PCS moves or pre/post deployment

personnel and keep them in a safe and secure environment. Additionally, the Navy has [modified meal allowances](#) for those placed in restricted movement status, allowing them to receive meals without losing their pre-existing subsistence allowance.

[USNS Mercy](#) and [USNS Comfort](#) are on station and starting to see patients in New York City and Los Angeles, including Coronavirus patients.

Our Sailors, civilians, contractors and family members are beginning to recover. Many are looking to return to work. The [CDC](#) and BUMED put out guidance on when individuals can return to work. As always, check with your supervisor to make sure you meet the criteria to return to work.

The mitigation efforts we are taking are working. Across the country and on our installations, social distancing, teleworking, isolating the sick and wearing facemasks is making a difference. This week, the CDC Director Robert Redfield said the agency's coronavirus death toll projections had been lowered because more Americans were practicing social distancing than previously expected. This is good news, but we are not at the end yet. As U.S. Commander Fleet Forces highlighted this week, this is not the time for complacency. We need to continue practicing social distancing, washing our hands and wearing a face covering. We must remain fully engaged until we have won this battle against COVID-19.

The CNO released a new ["Message to the Fleet"](#) this week, where he identified his top three priorities moving forward. First, our health and safety. Second, ongoing fleet operations and our support to the coronavirus effort. Third, continuing to generate the enormous amount of support required to keep numbers 1 and 2 on track. Like him, I believe we are moving forward and that all of us are an important part of the response. If you haven't read it yet, you should take a moment and do so.

Make no mistake, you are a vital part of the fight. Not only are we working to take care of our own, but we are part of the broader national response as well. As the CNO highlighted: America. Has. A. Great. Navy. We still have a mission to perform, and it may be even more vital than ever, as opportunists use the pandemic to affect our national interests. We cannot let that happen, and to that end, it is imperative that we continue to take care of ourselves and each other.

Remember that your efforts are important, that they are very much appreciated, and that collectively we are making a difference, not only in our Navy's, but in our Nation's response effort as well. Keep up the great work.